

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION ARA-10

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ECON, PINT, ASEC, AR

SUBJECT: VILLA CONSTITUTION STRIKE

REF: BA 3134

SUMMARY. MININTERIOR RELEASED COMMUNIQUE MAY 9 DESCRIBING "VAST SUBVERSIVE OPERATION" BY ERP ORGANIZATION IN VILLA CONSTITUCION AREA WHICH WAS BASIS FOR GOA ARREST OF LABOR LEADERS THAT IN TURN SPARKED SHUTDOWN IN METAL WORKING PLANTS. COMMUNIQUE FAILED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF COMPLICITY BY ARRESTED LABOR LEADERS, NOR WERE THEY SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTS. IN MAY 10 ASSEMBLY, WORKERS RESOLVED TO CONTINUE STRIKE UNTIL LEADERS RELEASED. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING REPEATED DEMANDS BY UCR, OTHER POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, AND NATIONAL UCM LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL, THAT GOA EXPLAIN GROUNDS FOR ARREST OF VILLA CONSTITUCION LABOR LEADERS, MININTERIOR RELEASED COMMUNIQUE MAY 9 DETAILING "UNUSUALLY VAST SUBVERSIVE OPERATION" BY ERP DIRECTED WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY POWER ORGANIZATION. ALLEGEDLY, OPERATION BEGAN 10 MONTHS AGO WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATION TAKING ADVANTAGE OF UNION DISSIDENCE TO "TOTALLY COMPROMISE" MANY LABOR LEADERS. ARREST AND INTERROGATION OF

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SOME SUBVERSIVES AND SUBSEQUENT SURVEILLANCE HAD PERMITTED

GOA TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF PLOT.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, PLOT WAS CARRIED OUT BY POLITICAL ACTION IN FACTORIES DESIGNED TO CREATE PERMANENT WORKER AGITATION, AND BY TERRORIST ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE WORKERS. LATTER ACTIVITIES INCLUDED: A) INTIMIDATION BY KIDNAPPINGS AND BOMBINGS; B) PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING ERP PAMPHLETS; C) SEIZURE OF FACTORIES TO HARANGUE WORKERS AND INTIMIDATE OWNERS; AND D) LIQUIDATION OF THOSE WHO FRUSTRATE TERRORISTS' PLANS. TERRORISTS' GOAL WAS TO CAPTURE LABOR SECTOR FOR TROTSKYISM IN ORDER TO CREATE CONFLICTS AND REDUCE PRODUCTIVITY. AS EVIDENCE OF MAGNITUDE OF PLOT, COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT POLICE HAD ARRESTED 307 INDIVIDUALS, AND 97 OF THEM WERE STILL BEING HELD.

3. DURING MAY 10 ASSEMBLY, STRIKERS REAFFIRMED INTENTION TO REMAIN ON STRIKE UNTIL UNION LEADERS RELEASED. THEY ALSO PLAN MEETING WITH LORENZO MIGUEL TO SEEK HIS ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THEIR POSITION. REPORTEDLY, ONLY ABOUT 350 OF THE 7,000 WORKERS HAVE RETURNED TO WORK DESPITE COMPANY TELEGRAMS THREATENING DISCHARGES UNLESS WORKERS RETURN.

4. COMMENT. COMMUNIQUE GAVE NO DETAILS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES WHICH JUSTIFIED ARREST OF UNION LEADERS. NONE WAS SPECIFICALLY CHARGED WITH COLLABORATION OR PARTICIPATION IN PLOT. AT MOST, SOME UNNAMED LEADERS WERE REPORTEDLY "COMPROMISED" BY TERRORISTS. ALTHOUGH MOST OBSERVERS WOULD AGREE THAT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO CREATE LABOR PROBLEMS DO EXIST IN VILLA CONSTITUCION, AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOA COMMUNIQUE WILL CONVINCE MANY THAT ITS ACTIONS WHICH HAVE PARALYZED THE METAL WORKING INDUSTRY ARE JUSTIFIED. NOR WILL IT SPEEDILY RESOLVE THE STRIKE WHICH IS NOW IN ITS 53RD DAY.
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